

REMARKS

A proposed drawing amendment is enclosed with new formal drawings. These were previously filed on 1/29/2002.

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 14, 22-26, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mahon et al. (US 3,474,383). Claims 5, 11-13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahon et al. (US 3,474,383) in view of Gordon (US 2,892,176). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice and its features have been added to claim 1. In view of section 6 of the office action, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance.

Though dependent claims 2-5 and 8-13 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 14 has been converted from dependent form into independent form. This change does not narrow or limit the scope of the claim. Claim 15 has been cancelled and its features have been added to claim 14. In view of section 6 of the office action, claim 14 should now be in condition for allowance.

Though dependent claims 16, 17 and 19-21 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 14.

However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 18 has been converted from dependent form into independent form. This change does not narrow or limit the scope of the claim. In view of section 6 of the office action, claim 18 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 has been cancelled without prejudice above and its features have been added to claim 22. In view of section 6 of the office action, claim 22 should now be in condition for allowance.

Though dependent claims 23-26 and 28-30 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 22. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

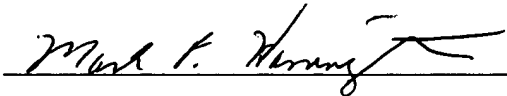
Claim 31 has been amended above. Claim 31 claims that intermeshing mating projections and recesses is on a bottom section of the middle housing piece with adjacent ones of the housing pieces to interlock the housing pieces with each other. The recesses comprise top slots and bottom slots connected to each other at the bottom section and horizontally offset from each other, and the mating projections comprise top projections and bottom projections on the bottom section. The features of claim 31 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are

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clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's Attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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7/15/04

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DRAWINGS

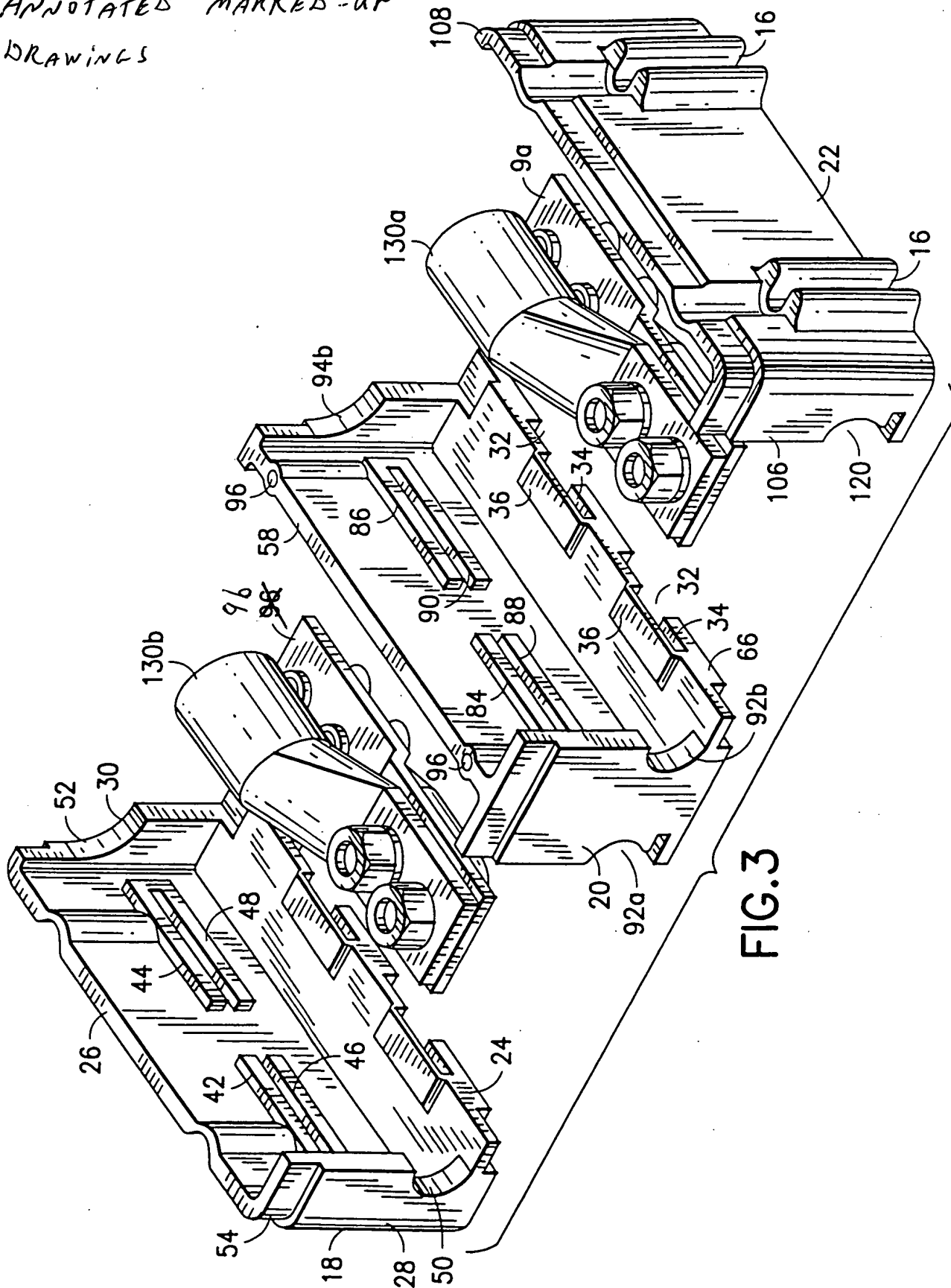


FIG. 3



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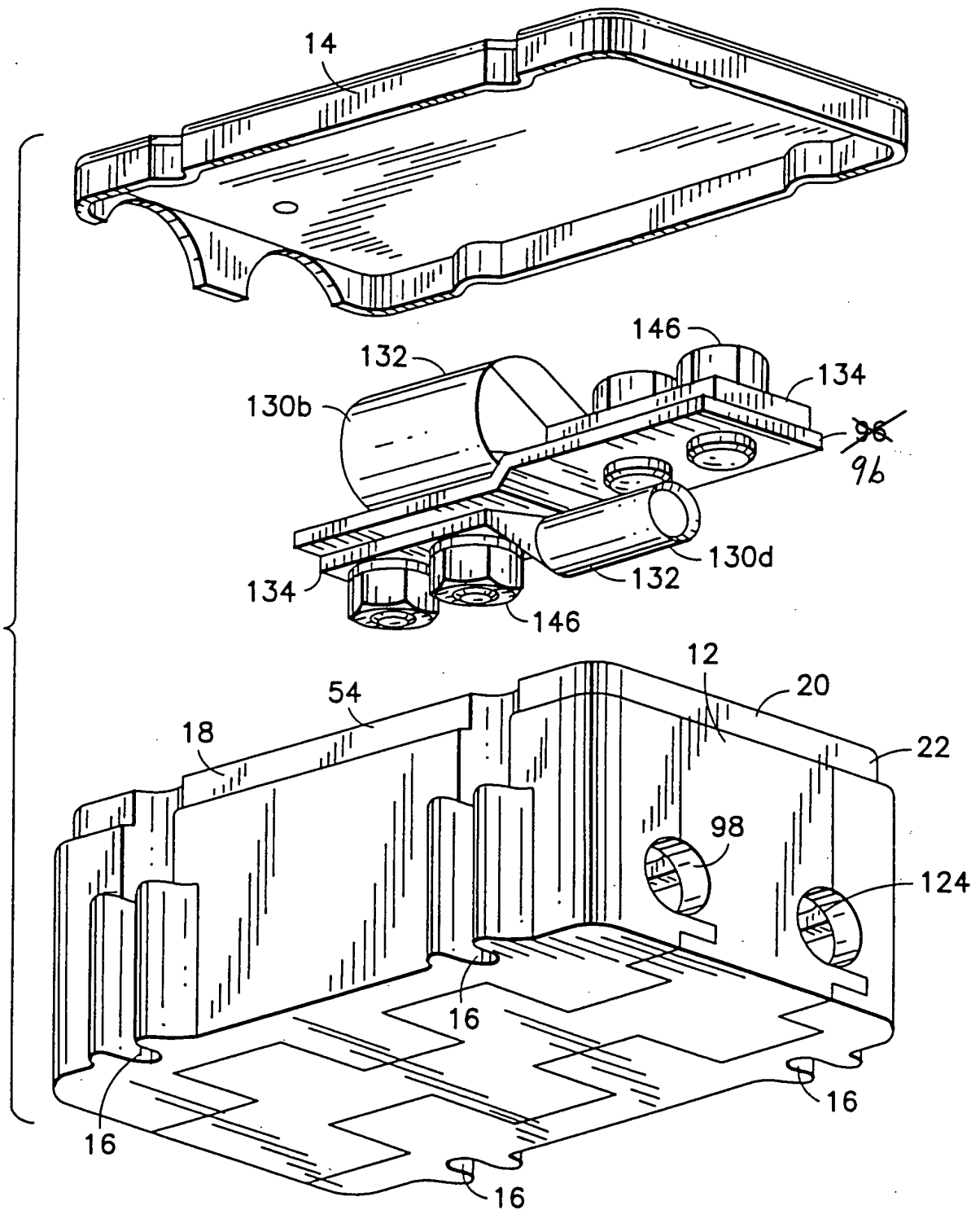


FIG.4

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
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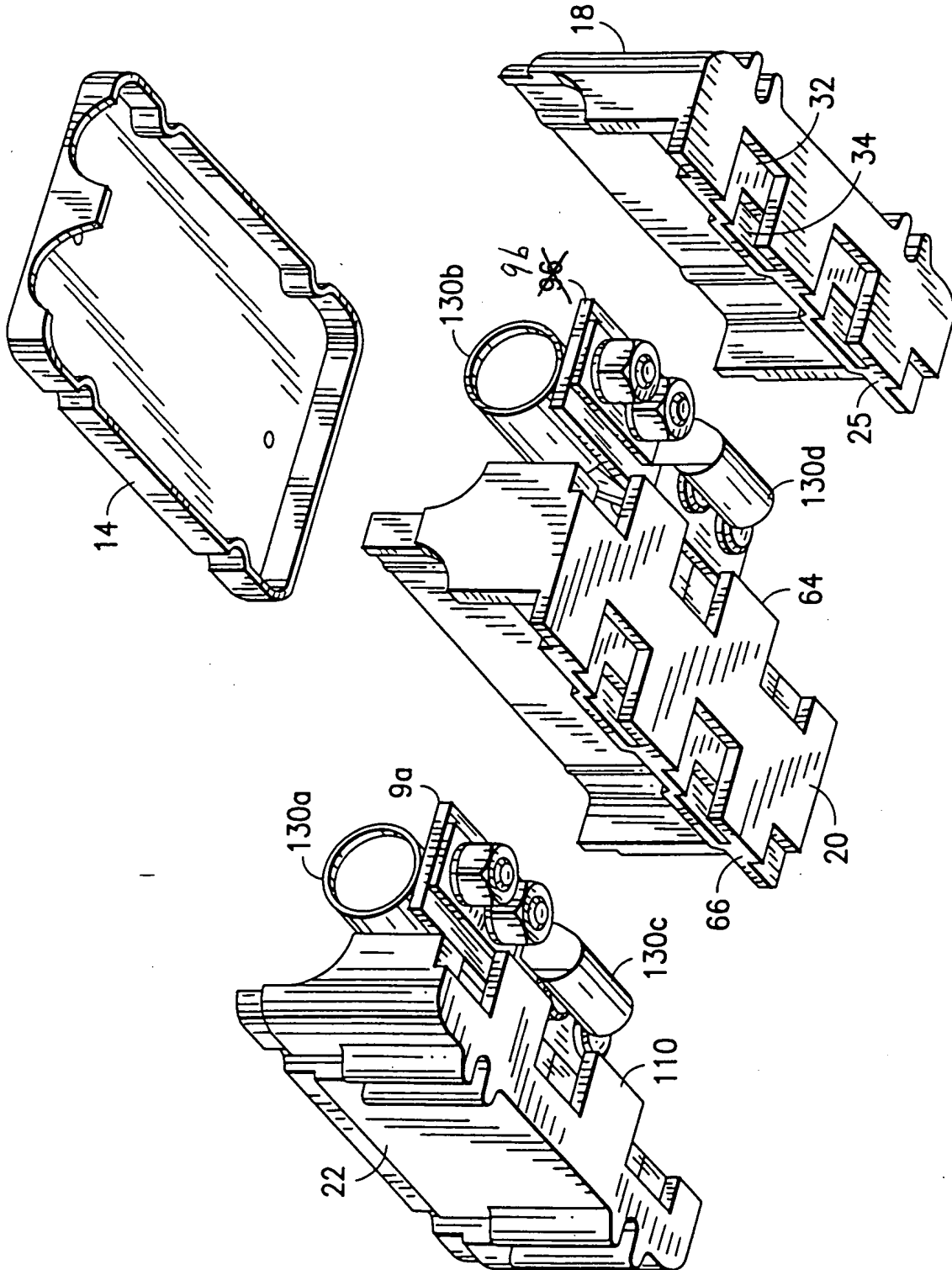


FIG. 5